



THE COUNTY OF KAUAI

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News Release

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Committee on the Status of Women announces four students placing in the 2020 Women's History Essay Contest

The Kaua'i Committee on the Status of Women is proud to announce four students placing top honors in the 2020 Women's History Essay Contest.

First place was awarded to Darian Martin. Darian is the daughter of Tulsea Ellamar and Darrin Martin and is a junior at Kauai High School. The committee was moved by her raw and honest emotions expressed on her struggles to overcome and gain appreciation for her true self. Her triumph is an inspiration to all.

"Despite the rapid onset of restrictions and closures due to COVID19, we are so proud of Ms. Martin and all the other students that were able to complete an essay," said Chair Darcie Yukimura. "It's clear they put a ton of effort into this and took the contest seriously. The essays were moving and inspired our hearts and mind."

In celebration of Women's History month and to mark the 100th year anniversary of the 19th Amendment the committee opened the contest to all Kauai public, private, charter and home-schooled high school students. They were asked to submit a one-page essay about a woman who inspired them and how. Prizes were awarded to the top four and the remaining entrants were awarded a consolation prize. This is the first in a four-part series highlighting the students that wrote the winning essays.



The remaining three entrants will be featured in following press releases. The Committee on the Status of Women is part of the County of Kaua'i Boards and Commissions, and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, which develops and promotes education, interactive opportunities on issues relating to women and girls, prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, and encouraging health and wellness awareness. You may visit the Committee on the Status of Women Website at www.kauai.gov/kccsw. For more information please contact the Office of Boards and Commissions, Ellen Ching eching@kauai.gov or Sandra Muragin smuragin@kauai.gov.



Photo caption: First place was awarded to Darian Martin. Darian is the daughter of Tulsea Ellamar and Darrin Martin and is a junior at Kauai High School.

Darrin Martin's winning essay is featured below:

It all started my sixth grade year in middle school, I remember there was a point in that year where I just didn't have the same strive as I used to have. It was like I lost my pride and light, I know it sounds dramatic but what can I say, besides it's what I was feeling. I went through that year just really in a slump, which led me to get bullied in all sorts of ways. I remember crying to my mother about what they kids were saying about me, we called the cops and everything, but the words just got worse. I went on with my middle school career just hating myself so much, I didn't take care of myself, I lost some of my childhood friends. I was at my lowest point. Now I get it, "Why are you telling me about this? I want to know about women who inspire you," Don't worry I won't bore or sadden you with this, when I was at my lowest point so many people were by my side to bring me back and I'm so grateful for them.

To the Public and Human Services Teacher, you taught me how to reflect on things and to fix them. You showed me that life is too short and I need to live it to the fullest. I remember you taught the class how to meditate because the boys were being more rude than usual. Thank you for showing me how to keep my cool even though I still struggle with not bursting out in anger. Thank you for being kind to me, I know you are a teacher and that's your job but there are some teachers who tend to be rude.

To the girl in my sixth grade robotics class, you have inspired me to always smile even though it hurts. I remembered you told me one day in class, "I know it hurts right now but just know before the rainbow comes you gotta have the rainstorm." I know you got that from the movie, 'The Fault in Our Stars' but I still appreciate you making me smile and becoming one of my best friends till this day. You keep teaching me every day that every day is worth it, showing me not to let others words get to my head, Thank you.

To the girl who had the crazy hair, you've got to be one of the craziest child I have ever met. You showed me to be myself like nobody is watching, you always inspired me to do whatever makes me happy and if someone didn't like it. Just laugh in their face. I've never been happier being myself, Thank you for becoming someone I could lean on when I need a reminder that I'm fantastic.

To my grandma Jen, you are one of the toughest ladies I know. You really go at it when it came to fishing, I remember when we were kids and you used to fish literally on the rocks. I love how real you are, like you say what's on your mind and when someone asks you for your opinion you give it to them straight up. The thing you do that inspires me so much is that you are not afraid of anything, all of your stories growing up always made me want to be fearless like you. Thank you grandma.

To the lady that gave birth to me, who held me when I cried and who showed me right from wrong, my mother. You taught me almost everything I know now, YOU molded me into the person I am today. Mom, you inspire me not only because you're my mom, you raise three kids, work two jobs and still make time for us, your family. Thank you for being my mom and loving me and supporting me in everything I do.

Last but certainly not least, to the other young girls out there in the world, you ladies inspire me with all the crazy and empowering things you do to defend us girls. Every day you ladies show me just how powerful our voices can be, thank you for never backing down from anything.

I know this sounds repetitive but this my thank you letter to them, for showing me that there's always a brighter side to everything and inspiring me to be whoever I want to be. Thank you.

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